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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KHAN (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.2/49/L.14, L.15 and L.22)

Draft resolution on modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields (A/C.2/49/L.14)

1. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, said that after informal consultations, it had been decided to ask the Chairman to refer the draft resolution to the Fifth Committee for consideration under the item entitled "Pattern of Conferences".

2. Mr. STOBY (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) recalled that the draft resolution was essentially concerned with the documentation requirements of the Economic and Social Council. Since the Fifth Committee's area of competence was significantly different, it would be preferable if the decision were taken either by the Council itself or by the Second Committee, the Council's main point of contact within the General Assembly.

3. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) said that his delegation would prefer the various positions expressed during the informal consultations to be clearly indicated. He himself, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, had pointed out that it was not a matter of deciding which Committee of the General Assembly had competence, but of placing the matter in a wider context: that of the overall rationalization of documentation. He had suggested that the Committee on Conferences should be asked to make recommendations on the subject.

4. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft resolution should be referred to the Fifth Committee for consideration under the item entitled "Pattern of Conferences" and that the various positions which had been taken should be indicated.

5. It was so decided.

Draft resolution on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan (A/C.2/49/L.15)

6. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, said that no agreement had been reached in informal consultations.

7. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) said that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. Mr. SINON (Malaysia) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

9. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) recalled that in the Declaration of Principles, his Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had agreed that the issues relating to the permanent status of the territories concerned would be negotiated at a later stage. Israel had long advocated the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions as the only framework to advance peace in the Middle East. That principle had formed the basis of the peace process begun at Madrid, within the framework of which the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and its subsequent agreements had been signed as well as the October 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Israel looked forward to progress with other parties to the peace process as well.

10. His Government believed that General Assembly resolutions should take account of the progress already achieved. He urged the Committee to defer the vote on the draft resolution, since the latter prejudged the outcome of the negotiations and was in contradiction with the obligations undertaken by the PLO in the Declaration of Principles. It also contradicted the principle of direct negotiations without preconditions. The bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the one hand and between Israel and Syria on the other were the appropriate forums for addressing the issue.

11. Furthermore, the fifth preambular paragraph referred to Security Council resolution 904 (1994), while ignoring the acts of terrorism perpetrated against Israel by fundamentalist organizations such as Hamas or the Islamic Jihad and making no mention of the measures taken by Israel in implementation of the Security Council resolution, including the establishment of a temporary international presence in Hebron and the implementation of security measures to ensure the safety of all worshippers at the Cave of the Patriarchs.

12. Israel was committed to the peace process. Accordingly, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution, and urged delegations which were in favour of the Middle East peace process to do likewise.

13. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan,

Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Angola, Belarus, Central African Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Kenya, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.15 was adopted by 112 votes to 2, with 23 abstentions.

15. Mr. RAJKHAN (Saudi Arabia) said that as a result of a technical malfunction his vote in favour of the draft resolution had not been recorded.

16. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) said that his vote had not been recorded for the same reason and that his country had also voted in favour of the draft resolution.

17. Mr. ELBATEL (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, although his country had voted in favour of the draft resolution, it wished to make some reservations with respect to certain parts of the draft resolution which might be construed as a recognition of Israel and to a number of elements concerning the ongoing Middle East peace process.

18. Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine) welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.15 on the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The vote demonstrated the fact that countries were aware of the seriousness of the situation and of the negative repercussions of those settlements on the region's economic and social situation.

19. Although under the Declaration of Principles the Palestine Liberation Organization had agreed to put off talks on the Israeli settlements until a later date, it still believed that international law should be applied. The settlers living on Palestinian territory should not obstruct the peace process, and the Israeli Government should adopt effective, bold measures to enforce internationally adopted resolutions. Until a just and lasting solution was found to the conflict, the General Assembly should continue to affirm its position on the issue as part of the Organization's responsibilities in defence of the Palestinian cause.

20. In view of the problems that had arisen during the voting, it would perhaps be advisable to vote again, thereby enabling all the countries whose votes had not been recorded to vote properly.

21. Mr. DJABBARY (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution but that he had reservations concerning the paragraphs which could be interpreted as a recognition of Israel.

22. Mr. SHAKIR (Iraq) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution but that he wished to make reservations with respect to the seventh preambular paragraph, which referred to the Madrid conference.

23. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) said that his delegation had been unable to vote because of technical reasons but that it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

24. Mr. ELISSEEV (Ukraine) said that Ukraine had abstained because the draft resolution did not reflect the progress achieved in the peace process, being more political than economic in nature.

25. Mr. THAN NHAN KHANG (Viet Nam) said that had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

26. Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) said that had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

27. Mr. NAADJIE (Ghana) said that had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

28. Mrs. SEGOMELO (Botswana) said that had she been present during the voting, she would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution on strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development (A/C.2/49/L.22)

29. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, said that following informal consultations a consensus had been reached on the draft resolution, the text of which had been slightly amended. The operative paragraph now read: "Endorses resolution 789 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to fully implement the resolution within existing United Nations resources."

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.22, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.65)

Draft resolution on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/C.2/49/L.65)

31. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, announced that following informal consultations a consensus had been reached on the draft resolution, whose text had been slightly amended. In the seventh line of paragraph 5, a comma should be inserted before the words "and for", a phrase which should be deleted and be replaced by the word "including".

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.65, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 89: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/49/84 and Add.1 and 2, A/49/223-E/1994/105, A/49/463, A/C.2/49/L.50/Rev.1 and L.77)

Draft resolution on fisheries bycatch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources (A/C.2/49/L.50/Rev.1)

33. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.50/Rev.1, which was the outcome of informal consultations, and called for its adoption by consensus.

34. Mr. SWAIN (Marshall Islands) and Mrs. KLEIN-LOEMBAN TOBING (Suriname) said that their delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

35. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, said that in the second line of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution the words "an item" should be replaced by the words "under the item".

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.50/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

37. Mr. CHO (Republic of Korea) said that although his delegation had joined the consensus it felt that, in view of the complexity of the issue, it should be considered by specialized bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which were already considering provisions on fisheries bycatch and discards. In that regard, it was regrettable that the General Assembly adopted resolutions on fisheries on a case-by-case basis, since such an approach might undermine ongoing efforts to draft a comprehensive regime for the conservation and management of living marine resources.

38. Mr. ROGACHEV (Russian Federation) said that while his delegation had joined the consensus it would have abstained if the draft resolution had been put to a vote. The General Assembly was not the appropriate forum to examine such a complex technical problem. However, since the matter had been brought to its attention, the problem should be presented in a different way: it would be better to talk about fisheries discards rather than fisheries bycatches in general.

39. Mr. LOZANO (Mexico) said that his delegation had joined the consensus but the draft resolution was too vague and did not reflect the importance of the matter. During informal consultations, Mexico had submitted proposals designed to tighten up the text, but they had not been taken into consideration. In future the General Assembly should study the issue in more precise terms. Moreover, it would be advisable to respect the principles adopted at Rio and avoid trying to settle environmental problems by unilateral measures.

40. Mr. BERGUIDO (Panama), noting that his delegation had joined the consensus, said that the adoption of the draft resolution should not prejudge the negotiations that were being conducted on the matter elsewhere, in the context, inter alia, of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and the

International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Draft resolution on the International Day for Biological Diversity (A/C.2/49/L.77)

41. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recommended the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.77 on the International Day for Biological Diversity, adding that the day would be celebrated as from 1995.

42. Mr. DIAZ-AGUILERA (Venezuela) drew attention to an error in the Spanish text; the day in question should be 29 December and not 29 November.

43. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.77 was adopted.

44. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development: elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/49/84 and Add.1 and 2), the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth special session (A/49/223-E/1994/105) and the note by the Secretary-General on the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development: implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/49/463).

45. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 90: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/49/133-E/1994/49 and Add.1 and A/49/326)

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision: "The General Assembly takes note of the following documents: the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children (A/49/326) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Field representation of United Nations system organizations: a more unitary approach' and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/49/133-E/1994/49 and Add.1)."

47. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he had no objection to document A/49/133 being adopted, but he wished to clarify the following points. Following the adoption of resolution 48/209 entitled "Operational activities for development: field offices of the United Nations development system", and following the statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the report contained in document A/49/133, which dated from December 1992, had been superseded. The fact that the Committee was taking note of the report did not mean it was endorsing the contents. Moreover, the mandate of the United Nations representative had been clearly defined in

resolution 47/199. For its part, the Group of 77 shared the view of the Administrative Committee on Coordination as set out in document A/49/133/Add.1.

48. The draft decision was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 91: TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.46, L.59 and L.66)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/49/L.46 and L.59)

49. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59 (A/C.2/49/L.66).

50. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

51. Ms. BOHN (United States of America) asked whether the costs of renting office space would be met from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants, or executing agency overheads or from the United Nations regular budget.

52. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59 was adopted.

53. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46 was withdrawn.

54. Mr. ALIOU (Cameroon) drew the Committee's attention to the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) regarding the appointment of a permanent Executive Director. Since 1992 UNITAR had not had a permanent Executive Director and the Board of Trustees believed that making the position permanent would eliminate some of the uncertainty over the future of the Institute.

55. Ms. BOHN (United States of America) requested the Secretariat to confirm that paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59 would have no programme budget implications and that any costs incurred would be met by UNITAR. Although it had joined the consensus, her delegation was not convinced of the utility of paragraph 5. Paragraph 2 of resolution 47/227 had already made provision for the post of a liaison officer in New York. It would therefore be preferable to eliminate paragraph 5 of the draft resolution since it could create ambiguity.

56. Mr. SHINODA (Japan) expressed support for the recommendation by the UNITAR Board of Trustees proposing Mr. Boisard for the post of Executive Director of the Institute.

57. Mr. CHIEGINA (Nigeria) also supported the nomination of Mr. Boisard. He stressed that the Institute offered important training services within the United Nations system and should therefore have a sound financial base.

58. Mr. DOUJAK (Austria) said that ACABQ had noted that by filling the post of Executive Director certain obstacles could be surmounted. To ensure the stability of the Institute, an Executive Director had to be appointed. Austria was therefore firmly in favour of the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

59. Mrs. WONG (Australia) also expressed support for the recommendation of the Board of Trustees proposing Mr. Boisard for the post of Executive Director of UNITAR.

60. Mrs. JANJUA (Pakistan) expressed appreciation for the work of UNITAR and its Executive Director and joined in supporting the recommendation of the Board of Trustees proposing Mr. Boisard for the post of Executive Director.

AGENDA ITEM 158: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/49/482, A/C.2/49/L.47, L.48, L.67, L.71 and L.74)

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.74, "International migration and development"

61. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, said that, in order to bring the text of the seventh preambular paragraph into harmony with that of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the words "the promotion of its integration", on the fifth line, should be replaced by "of integrating it".

62. Mr. MOJOUKHOV (Belarus) said that his delegation had joined the consensus because of the importance it attached to the subject; however, in informal consultations, it had advocated a broader approach.

63. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.74, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

64. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.47 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.67, "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development"

65. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.67, which was the outcome of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.48, noted that a comma after the word "health" should be added in the first line of paragraph 6 of the English text.

66. The CHAIRMAN announced that the implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.67 on the programme budget had been published in document A/C.2/49/L.71.

67. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.67 was adopted without a vote.

68. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.48 was withdrawn.

69. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should decide to take note of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/49/482).

70. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAl ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.36, L.43, L.64 and L.68)

Draft resolutions concerning special measures to promote the development of small island developing countries (A/C.2/49/L.36 and L.68)

71. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, said that after informal consultations, it had been agreed that two amendments should be made to draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.68. In paragraph 6 of the English text, the words following "and welcomes" should be replaced by: "the provision made in [A/C.2/49/L.37/Rev.1] for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out ...". In the fifth line of paragraph 7, the word "also" should be replaced by "furthermore".

72. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.68, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

73. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.36 was withdrawn.

Draft resolutions on transit environment in the land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (A/C.2/49/L.43 and L.64)

74. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.64, said that in paragraph 1 of the English text, the words "and relevant original organizations" should be inserted after the words "Economic Commission for Europe".

75. Mr. IDRISSOV (Kazakhstan) announced that the Russian Federation wished to join the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

76. In the Russian text, a comma should be inserted just after the word "novykh" (new) in the penultimate line of paragraph 1.

77. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.64 was adopted without a vote.

78. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.43 was withdrawn.

79. Mrs. CRONENBERG-MOSSBERG (Sweden) said that Sweden, which had joined the consensus, had, like other States, doubted the appropriateness of classifying land-locked countries in several categories. In the process of negotiations, a greater awareness had emerged on the need to establish a viable and workable transit system for all land-locked countries - developing and in transition.

80. Mr. TASOVSKI (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) expressed support for the statement made by the Swedish delegation.

81. Mr. MOJOUKHOV (Belarus) said that Belarus, being a land-locked country, attached the greatest importance to the draft resolution which had just been adopted and affirmed its readiness to participate in the activities to be undertaken to implement it, and especially in the symposium envisaged in paragraph 3 and the various study projects.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.